



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5-2  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,691	10/03/2003	Christian Mueller	ITC-338US	9956
23122	7590	08/01/2005	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P O BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			KOBERT, RUSSELL MARC	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2829		

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/678,691	MUELLER, CHRISTIAN
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Russell M. Kobert	2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 10-16 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 2829

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 8, 10-16 and 19-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ramesh et al (6586925).

Ramesh et al anticipates an apparatus and method for establishing a distance between a test head and a peripheral, comprising:

A frame (Figure 3b) which is coupled to one of the test head (via Test Head Plate 12 and/or 70) and the peripheral (via Handler Plate 10); and

A linear unit (71) for causing adjustable movement of the frame towards or away from a docking surface of said test head and said peripheral to change the distance (col. 8, ln 41-48)

The frame preventing the test head and the peripheral from being closer to each other than said distance,

Wherein, at said distance, the test head and the peripheral communicate (see Summary of the Invention); as recited in claims 1 and 12.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-5, 8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramesh et al as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of Nagakusa (5295853).

Although Ramesh et al does not specifically point out the details of dependent claims 2-5, 8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 19-21, Nagakusa et al discloses the following:

As to claims 2 and 13, having one of the test head and peripheral coupled to alignment features (all combined components to guide pin 7, best shown in Figure3) for docketing one of the test head and peripheral with the other of said test head and peripheral is anticipated by Nagakusa et al.

As to claims 3 and 14, having the linear unit to include one of a male (7 and 7c) and female threaded member attached to the other of the test head and peripheral (11a and 11b, best shown in Figures 3, 5A and 5B) is anticipated by Nagakusa et al.

As to claims 4 and 15, having the frame (2) including the other of the male and female threaded member (4) is anticipated by Nagakusa et al.

As to claims 5 and 16, having the one of the male and female threaded member (7) rotated in order to move the frame towards or away from the docking surface of the other of the test head and peripheral (11) is anticipated by Nagakusa et al (col 3, ln 56 - col 4, ln 48).

As to claims 8 and 19, having the linear unit being one of a plurality of linear units (5, 6, 7, 8a , 8b and 9) for moving the frame is anticipated by Nagakusa et al (col 3, ln 42-55).

As to claims 10 and 20, having a crank (Actuator 9) rotated to cause the plurality of linear units to move the frame is anticipated by Nagakusa et al.

As to claims 11 and 21, having the docking surface (that portion of 2 or 11 upon which DUT board 10 abuts, best shown in Figures 4A and 4B) between the frame and one of the test head and peripheral is anticipated by Nagakusa et al.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teaching of Nagakusa et al with that of Ramesh et al to make the claimed invention because both utilize mechanisms to quickly and reliably connect and dock a test head with a peripheral device such as a handler plate or a device under test.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, previously mentioned in the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005:

Art Unit: 2829

Claims 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The added limitation of the other of the male and female member being rotated in order to move the frame towards or away from the docking surface of the other of the test head and peripheral as further detailed in claims 6 and 17 has not been found.

The added limitation of the linear unit being coupled to a detent plate having a detent wherein the detent plate is further coupled to the other of the test head and the peripheral, a lever coupled to the frame wherein the lever engages the detent to indicate the frame is in an intended position relative to the other of the test head and the peripheral as further detailed in claims 7 and 18 has not been found.

It is further noted that the examiner's reasons are understood to be predicated upon consideration of each of the claims as a whole, and not upon any specific elements of the claims.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

Art Unit: 2829

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

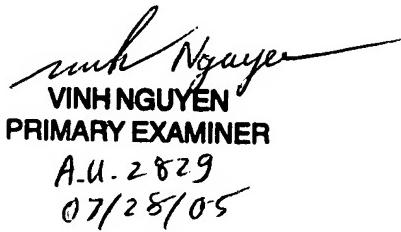
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Kobert whose telephone number is (571) 272-1963.

The Examiner's Supervisor, Nestor R. Ramirez, can be reached at (571) 272-2034.

For an automated menu of Tech Center 2800 phone numbers call (571) 272-2800.



Russell M. Kobert  
Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2829  
July 28, 2005



VINH NGUYEN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
A.U. 2829  
07/28/05